

REMARKS

Claims 23-34 and 39-42 are pending. The office action is addressed below.

Objections


The Examiner objects to pending claims 34 and 39-40 due to the recitation of "a concatamer according to claim 24." Without acquiescing in the merits of this objection, the Applicants have amended the claims to recite "the nucleic acid sequence of claim 24," in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

35 USC §112 - Enablement

The Examiner maintains rejection of pending claims 41 and 42 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph as allegedly non-enabled for certain embodiments. Without acquiescing in the merits of this rejection, the Applicants have amended claims 41 and 42 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, in order to obviate the rejection and move this case to allowance.

pectfully request the withdrawal of all
ed to allowance.

fully submitted,



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33

MARKED UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

34. (Amended) A method of making a concatamerised polypeptide, the method comprising expressing **[a concatamer according to] the nucleic acid sequence of** claim 24; isolating an expressed polypeptide having a unique unpaired cysteine and at least one antigen; conjugating the unique cysteine residue in the isolated polypeptide to a chemical linker group comprising at least two thiol-reactive functions, and isolating the conjugated polypeptide.
39. (Amended) A method of making a concatamerised polypeptide, the method comprising expressing **[a concatamer according to] the nucleic acid sequence of** claim 24; isolating an expressed polypeptide having a unique cysteine residue; and conjugating the unique cysteine residue in the isolated polypeptide through a chemical linkage to an antigen molecule comprising one or more thiol-reactive functions.
40. (Amended) A method of making an antigen derivative, the method comprising expressing **[a concatamer according to] the nucleic acid sequence of** 24 with a unique unpaired cysteine; separately expressing or preparing an antigen derivative with one or more unpaired cysteines; linking the two entities through an intermolecular disulphide bond; and isolating the product.
41. (Twice Amended) A **[pharmaceutical]** composition comprising **a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier [concatamer according to] and the nucleic acid sequence of** claim 23 **[and a physiologically acceptable excipient or carrier]**.
42. (Amended) A **[pharmaceutical]** composition comprising a **pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the expression** vector **[according to] of** claim 30 **[and a physiologically acceptable excipient or carrier]**.